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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 4 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 16-30 June 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

I request that you intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused during the period 16-30 June 1998

1. Northern region: 110 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Rawanduz.

2. Southern region: 487 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Safwan, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Taqtaqanah, Rifa'i, Najaf, Shithathah and Ukhaydir.

3. On 10 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraq's airspace.

4. At 1135 hours on 17 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

5. At 1240 and 1245 hours on 19 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

6. At 0930, 1340, 1025, 0140 and 1045 hours on 20 and 21 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

7. At 0845 hours on 28 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over the town of Umm Qasr.

8. At 0940 hours on 30 June 1998 a United States F-16 aircraft launched a missile at a civilian water-storage complex located 12 kilometres to the north of Umm Qasr, in an area to the south of Basra province and inside the demilitarized zone.